

# **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, March 19, 2009, 7 p.m.**

**ARC, 1701 W. Ash**

## **MINUTES**

**Commission Present:** Terry Kloeppe, Bill Pauls, Dennis Knudson, Dan Devine, Sue Davis

**Commission Absent:** Marin Blevins, Gary Kespohl

**Staff Present:** Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Tammy Miller

Kloeppe called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Davis.

**Minutes:** The minutes were approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Knudson.

**Monthly Report:** New copies of the monthly report were distributed to the Commission as an error was discovered in the youth basketball totals on the report that was mailed.

Kloeppe commented on the number of warnings for no helmets at the Skate Park and asked if there has been an increase in visitors to the Park?

Griggs said yes, there have been more people at the Skate Park, plus the Park Ranger has had more time to frequent the facility as spring sports have not started yet. The ranger tries to spend time there at the beginning of the spring to “set the tone” for the summer and make sure youth are following the rules.

Kloeppe then asked about work being done at Hickman on the ballfields?

Griggs said that cables to the scoreboard were inadvertently cut, and our crews agreed to repair the cable and retrench the area.

The monthly report was approved on a motion by Knudson, seconded by Devine.

### **Boards and Commissions Questionnaire**

Kloeppe asked input from other commissioners on the questionnaire sent by the City Clerk. On the first question of projects and issues facing the Commission, some items listed are the renewal of the parks sales tax, a master plan for Gans Creek Recreation Area, and a possible land dedication ordinance.

Commissioners did not list any policy changes for question #2 and referred back to question #1 for the third question regarding planned results.

On question #4, commissioners said no additional funds were needed for their budget and did not name any other specific duties or legislation changes in question #5.

Devine asked if another seat would ever be added on the City Council, as the Commission’s number of seats mirrors the Council’s?

Hood said there has been talk of adding to the number of wards but he believed it would take an amendment of the city charter, which requires a vote of Columbia citizens.

In answer to the question on the questionnaire of improving communications, Davis asked how it has been in the past?

Hood said that most communications flows through staff with memos and meeting minutes. He said he would encourage Commissioners to speak directly with Council members as needed.

Devine agreed that one-on-one communication seems to work best. He said the meeting that Commissioners had with Council last summer was productive, but he did not see the need to have more frequent, formal meetings.

Kloeppe said he would be submitting the questionnaire to the City Clerk by March 31, so if anyone had

other comments, they would need to provide them by that deadline.

### **MPRA Conference Report**

Pauls said he enjoyed the conference and got a lot out of it. He named highlights as the first day, which consisted of tours of the parks and fountains of Kansas City, as well as the awards banquet at which Mayor Hindman was inducted to the MPRA Hall of Fame. Pauls said the sessions were informative, and he set out some information he had gathered for other commissioners to review. He encouraged other commissioners to attend the MPRA Conference, if they ever had the opportunity.

Hood said he had only attended the conference for one day, but it seemed like trends he saw at the national conference last fall were reinforced at the state level, such as “going green” and shifts in senior programming.

Next year’s MPRA conference will be held at about the same time of year (early March) and will be at Lake of the Ozarks.

### **Natural Areas Preservation**

Hood informed the Commission that the Council is interested in creating a Natural Areas Preservation Program in the interest of preserving green space around Columbia. They are forming a work group from different organizations and citizen representation, including the Parks and Recreation Commission, to determine how the program would work and how the processes would function. Some questions to consider with the inventory are what types of space would be included, undisturbed space or undeveloped; should water quality be covered; tree species types; and cultural heritage. The work group would be charged with finding answers to these types of questions. Hood said the Council also discussed using a portion of the parks sales tax to assist in these efforts.

He said he wanted to give the Commission a “heads-up” about this and that more information would be forthcoming.

Devine said his initial concern would be that parks and natural areas could be “competing” for funding priority.

Hood replied that money set aside for green space acquisition would have to be clearly defined as such. Some natural spaces are actually just undeveloped parks.

Pauls commented he would be interested in working on these type of efforts.

### **Council Items**

Hood shared these updates:

**Farmers Market:** Have applied for federal funds from the stimulus package, and Hood said there was a good chance they would receive them. The Farmers Market is working with the state Department of Agriculture on the funding and is working with the City on a long-term lease for the land, which will be voted on April 6. If the stimulus money is not approved, the Farmers Market will need to work on fund-raising again. Hood said the lease would address both possibilities.

Devine asked if there were detailed plans of construction?

Hood said the plans are similar to those they drafted in 2002. He said he would try to get a copy of them for the next commission meeting.

**Philips Phase I:** Work will consist of a boat ramp, dock, fishing dock, parking lot, restrooms, sidewalks and lighting. The work must be complete by the end of the year, or the department will lose the grant that is funding the project. The Council may authorize plans on April 20 then construction will begin.

Knudson asked about the type of boats that will be allowed?

Hood said only small ones with a trolling motor would be allowed.

### **Capital Projects**

Griggs shared these updates:

**Lake of the Woods:** new tee installed at #3.

**LA Nickell:** a larger culvert was installed.

**Hickman:** new warm-up area prepared with assistance from parent boosters.

**PMC:** some trees were transplanted with the expansion of the parking lot.

**Stephens Lake Park:** the area around the waterfall was reseeded and the waterfall should be operational soon.

Devine asked if the waterfall would run through the winter?

Griggs said it was possible but it may not be cost effective and the pump may have to be drained.

**Grasslands:** the playground has been installed.

**Nifong:** the lake has been reshaped and re-seeded.

**Albert-Oakland:** the new ag lime infield is complete.

**Antimi:** a gate has been added to the complex.

**Auburn Hills:** shelter is under construction.

**Atkins:** service gates, lights and curbs are installed. Games will begin at the end of March.

**Twin Lakes:** the dock is in disrepair with eroding posts and pillars. It's about 20 years old and is being taken out. The steel is being saved so that it can be replaced as a floating dock.

**PMC greenhouse:** is in operation.

**5<sup>th</sup> Street treeboxes:** are being installed.

**CCRA sod farm:** as a cost-saving measure, a sod farm has been established.

**Treekeepers project:** took place at Stephens Lake Park on March 14.

### **Commission Comments**

Pauls complimented staff on the new plastic coverings on the bluebird houses along Bear Creek.

Kloeppel asked if the Legion Field would be in use this summer?

Hood said yes, because the Diamond Council is running a normal season instead of split seasons in the past, with the addition of the Atkins fields. The Legion field will be used as well. He said some improvements will have to be made to those fields at some point, as funding is available.

### **Staff Comments**

Hood told the Commission that Erika Coffman, director at the ARC, has been promoted to the position of recreation services manager. She will be attending Commission meetings but is currently at a conference in Washington DC, as part of her duties as incoming president of MPRA. Erika will keep her office at the ARC and to assist her, Karen Ramey has been promoted to the position of superintendent of recreation and community programs. Her position of recreation supervisor will be kept vacant for now.

Hood told the Commission that staff has been in touch with the owner of the two lots adjacent to Albert-Oakland Park, in a follow-up from the February meeting. They are willing to negotiate, so staff may at some point discuss it further with the Commission in closed session.

The first draft of the new dedication plaque at Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center has been completed. The plaque will be ordered soon.

### **Public Comments**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.